



Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program

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www.ci.manchester.nh.us/UrbanPonds

Have You Seen These Culprits? Exotic Plants of Maxwell Pond



Bush Honeysuckle - Tartarian spp. (*Lonicera tartarica*)

- Native to Asia and western Europe.
- Introduced to North America as an ornamental in 1752 and late 1800's.
- Grow in a broad range of habitats with varying moisture and shade levels.
- Woodlands are most susceptible to invasion, especially if the area is already disturbed.
- Grow mostly in or near large urban areas, but rural infestations have occurred where the species were introduced to provide wildlife with cover and a food source.
- Distribution is aided by birds, which consume the ripened fruit in summer and disperse the seeds over long distances.
- Their vigorous growth inhibits development of native shrub and ground layer species
- Honeysuckles may entirely replace native species by shading and depleting soil moisture and nutrients.

Climbing Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*)

- Native to Asia
- Introduced to North America for cultivation in the mid 1800's.
- Deciduous twining vine with alternate, round, glossy leaves.
- Small greenish flowers occur in clusters next to the leaf stems. Leathery capsule surrounding the seed ripens to a bright orange.
- Grows in woods, roadsides, thickets, and old homesites.
- Can overrun natural vegetation by overtopping all other species and forming thick nearly pure stands.
- Can strangle shrubs and tree limbs, and weaken a tree by girdling the trunk and weighting the crown making the tree more susceptible to wind and ice damage thus threatening the integrity of the native species.



Glossy Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*)

- Native of Europe.
- Shrub or small tree that produces small dark fruits.
- Fruits occur singly or in small groups.
- Birds which eat fruits cause spread of plant.
- Grows in fens, marshes, and bogs.
- Also grows in forests, fencerows, wood edges, prairies, and old fields.
- When plant invades a natural area it displaces the native species by the dense shade produced by the stand.



Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

- Native of Japan.
- Imported to North American in 1864.
- Seeds were later sent to the Arnold Arboretum (Boston) in about 1875.
- Deciduous shrub growing to 6 feet with arching branches of dense foliage of small rounded leaves atop short spines.
- Yellow flowers produce bright red oblong berries that develop in late summer and persist into winter.
- Seeds dispersed by birds have spread it from cultivated gardens and yards to pastures, woodlands, ledges, and floodplains where it grows equally well in sun or shade.
- In young forests, Barberry forms thorny thickets that shade out native plants.

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

- Native to Europe & Asia
- Introduced to North American in the early to mid 1800's by ship ballast or for use as an ornamental plant.
- Perennial herb with square, woody stems and opposite whorled leaves.
- Purple flowers bloom from late June through August.
- One adult plant can produce 2.5-2.7 million seeds annually.
- Seeds are viable for many years.
- Seeds easily dispersed and transported by water, wind, bird feathers, animal fur, footwear, boats, boat trailers.
- Can grow as an individual stalk or as several stalks clumped together.
- Resprouts from broken stems, underground roots, and plant fragments.
- Grows in freshwater marshes, wet meadows, open stream margins, and floodplains.
- Prefers moist soils, fluctuating water levels, and full sunlight. Can also grow in disturbed sites.
- Can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions and can establish itself on a variety of substrates.

